

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 5, 2002**. The recent dry weather has allowed farmers to rapidly plant spring row crops. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 33 percent short, 35 percent adequate and 27 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2001	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	100	94	98	95	0	4	26	53	17
	Emerged	92	80	90	87					
Cotton	Planted	56	19	66	36	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	29	12	36	17					
Rice	Planted	75	45	81	76	0	3	15	69	13
	Emerged	45	13	57	43					
Sorghum	Planted	57	37	79	64	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	38	14	54	43					
Soybeans	Planted	55	35	72	41	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	35	16	54	26					
Wheat	Jointing	100	97	99	100	1	14	39	37	9
	Heading	100	80	92	93					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	46	29	49	30	0	4	29	50	17
Watermelons	Planted	88	80	87	72	0	3	27	65	5
Cattle						1	5	24	59	11
Pasture						2	9	34	47	8
Blueberries						0	3	32	52	13

County Agent Comments

“Rain delayed all fieldwork this past week. When the weather permits, farmers will continue planting cotton and soybeans.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton County

“Corn is looking good. Early planted soybeans are growing rapidly. Five inches of rain this past week have stopped all fieldwork. Cotton will be planted in earnest once field conditions allow. Recent rains have allowed pastures to start growing. Harvesting of winter hay crops will begin once we have favorable weather.”

— Ronald L. Jones, Marshall County

“Continued heavy rains have prevented fescue and ryegrass hay harvest. Weather prevented intended corn plantings and has all farming activities halted. As days slip away, so will the number of cotton acres planted in this county.”

— Ricky D. Ferguson, Pontotoc County

“Rain fell in larger amounts in the Drew area. The south end of the county started back in the field Friday. A few more days and planting will be complete.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

“Our corn crop is off to a good start despite the presence of sugarcane beetles and southwestern corn borer moths. We have missed the recent rains and the top two inches of soil are getting extremely dry.”

— Scott Cagle, Montgomery County

“The Corn crop is beginning to show signs of stress. The heat, coupled with no water, is beginning to take its toll. Hay harvest is moving along, but most cut now will be of lower quality, due to the drying weather we have had over the last couple of weeks. Wheat is drying down nicely, but as we so often see, what is good for one crop is not necessarily good for another. A good, general soaking rain would be nice, but it doesn't look like it is in the forecast.”

— Richard Hay, Amite County

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Weather Summary from April 29, 2002 to May 5, 2002 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale				67		5.20 E	+4.01	2	7.13 E				0.23
Cleveland	91	55	72	67	+5	2.51	+1.32	4	3.41				
Tunica	87			67		3.94	+2.61	3	5.48	80	62	68	0.17
Extreme/Average	91	55	72	68	+4	3.88	+2.62	3	5.34	80	62	68	0.18
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	86	50	68	63	+5	4.36 E	+3.12	4	5.46 E	79	65	72	0.23
Memphis	88	54	66	66	0	1.58	+0.31	3	2.63				
Oxford	87	50	67	64	+3	9.00	+7.74	4	10.9				
Extreme/Average	88	50	67	66	+1	4.98	+3.69	4	6.36	79	65	72	0.23
3. Northeast													
Booneville	83	53	65	64	+1	5.13	+3.77	6	6.41				
Corinth	84	53	66	67	-1	3.07	+1.77	4	4.87				
Iuka	83	49	64	62	+2	3.82	+2.48	5	4.83				
Pontotoc	84	54	67	66	+1	8.10	+6.84	4	10.8	75	66	70	0.48
Tupelo	85	53	67	65	+2	5.60	+4.37	5	7.30				
Verona	87	54	69	65	+4	8.25	+7.13	4	10.6	79	40	68	0.23
Extreme/Average	87	49	66	66	0	5.66	+4.37	5	7.49	79	40	69	0.38
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	92	58	75	68	+7	2.10	+0.66	2	5.00	85	76	80	
Rolling Fork	93	58	76	68	+8	1.07	-0.19	2	3.59	94	74	84	0.18
Stoneville	91	56	74	69	+5	1.73 E	+0.47	3	4.18 E	88	65	76	0.25
Yazoo City	90	60	76	69	+7	0.84	-0.49	3	3.25				
Extreme/Average	93	56	75	69	+6	1.44	+0.25	3	4.01	94	65	80	0.21
5. Central													
Carthage	90	56	77	67	+10	0.31	-1.02	2	2.79				
Greenwood	89	52	71	68	+3	0.37	-0.89	2	2.77				
Jackson	90	61	77	67	+10	0.26	-1.02	1	2.95				
Winona	86	49	70	63	+7	0.42	-0.77	1	3.05				
Extreme/Average	90	49	74	68	+6	0.34	-0.92	2	2.89				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	90	52	75			0.20 E	-0.98	1	1.62 E	76	61	71	
Columbus	91	60	74	67	+7	0.50	-0.58	4	2.01				
State University	90	55	73	66	+7	0.40	-0.80	3	2.72	82	68	74	0.15
Extreme/Average	91	52	74	67	+7	0.37	-0.86	3	2.12	82	61	73	0.15
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	90	63	79	69	+10	0.00	-1.22	0	4.27	95	70	83	
Natchez	89	66	79	69	+10	0.04	-1.28	1	2.89				
Oakley	92	50	77	68	+9	0.65	-0.54	2	4.10				
Vicksburg	90	60	77			0.20		2	2.64				
Extreme/Average	92	50	78	69	+9	0.22	-1.04	1	3.48	95	70	83	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	91	68	79	69	+10	0.00	-1.33	0	2.87				
McComb	92	69	80	69	+11	0.00	-1.26	0	3.52				
Extreme/Average	92	68	80	69	+11	0.00	-1.27	0	3.20				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	93	61	79			0.00		0	1.79				
Hattiesburg	90	70	80	69	+11	0.00	-1.26	0	2.77				
Laurel	90	67	79	68	+11	1.49	+0.28	4	3.67				
Meridian	91	62	77	68	+9	0.27	-0.92	1	1.85				
Newton	91	59	76	66	+10	0.00	-1.13	0	2.27	83	68	75	0.19
Extreme/Average	93	59	78	69	+9	0.35	-0.77	1	2.47	83	68	75	0.19
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	91	66	79	70	+9	0.00	-1.26	0	0.81				
Biloxi AFB	88	73	81			0.00		0	2.42				
Gulfport	87	71	80	72	+8	0.00	-1.25	0	2.42				
Pascagoula	88	68	79			0.00		0	1.82				
Poplarville	92	62	79	70	+9	0.00	-1.26	0	3.57	94	72	83	0.30
Extreme/Average	92	62	80	71	+9	0.00	-1.12	0	2.16	94	72	83	0.30
State	93	49	75	68	+7	1.47	+0.25	2	3.76	95	40	76	0.22

DFN = Departure from Normal.